

## MISCELLANEOUS.

—Do not put too much trust in the man who praises you.—*Texas Siftings*.  
 —At a recent dinner in Washington, given by Mrs. Stockton, each guest was presented with a little cage containing a canary bird.—*Chicago Herald*.  
 —A suburban justice recently settled a case in which a boy committed an assault with a pistol, by committing the lad and ordering the pistol to be discharged.—*Little Giant*.

—The King of the Sandwich Islands has decorated King Malietoa of Samoa with the grand cross of the royal order of the Star of Oceania. Owing to his general lack of costume the latter monarch doesn't know how to pin it on.—*Chicago News*.

—An eighteen-year-old young man of Ritchie County, Ind., fell ill with measles. His grandmother, anxious to effect a speedy cure and "bring them out," placed him between two ticks of feathers, with hot stones at his feet and a live sheep alongside him. He died.

—An extremely useful cement for experimental use is made from equal quantities of gutta-percha and white pine pitch melted together. The compound should be without lumps. It improves by remelting, and softens at about the temperature of boiling water.—*Boston Budget*.

—Deer in the far West are fast going the way of the buffalo. One dealer in Jacksonville, Ore., in two months bought 1,300 deer skins, and other dealers in Southern Oregon have bought as many. These were all killed for their skins only, contrary to law.—*Springfield (O.) Times*.

—An explorer of prehistoric mounds in Ohio has found carefully wrought hatchets of soft coal associated with human skeletons and bronze ornaments. From the character of the material it is evident that these were meant to simulate axes of flint, and were of no use excepting in burials.—*Golden Rule*.

—It is estimated that there is at least \$5,000,000 invested in fast horses in New York City, exclusive of the animals kept for racing purposes. The claim is made that the owners of these fine creatures are entitled to special consideration from the city authorities, who are asked to lay out Jerome avenue as a finished driveway.—*Boston Transcript*.

—A dispatch from Algeria announces the death of the greatest lion slayer that the world has ever seen. Ahmed-ben-Ahmar, who was last year made a Knight of the Legion of Honor. He killed eighty lions and as many panthers from the time he learned to shoot until his departure for the happy hunting grounds.

—The total consumption of cocoa is 80,000,000 pounds per annum, supplied mainly by the West Indies and South America. France heads the list with 26,000,000 pounds; Spain comes next with 16,000,000 pounds; then follow England, 14,000,000 pounds; and the United States, 8,500,000 pounds.—*N. Y. Post*.

—A citizen of Little Falls, N. Y., who has carefully measured the snowfall there last winter, says that he makes it fourteen feet and nine inches, an unprecedented depth. The spot where the snow was measured was in a cedar swamp surrounded by trees, which was protected in such a manner that no snow blew in or out, and the figures are supposed to be accurate.

—At a recent meeting in Baltimore of the Freedmen's Aid Society, an organization for the education of Methodist ministers among the negroes of the South, Secretary T. C. Hartzell said that the colored people are increasing more by births than the whites are by births and immigration combined. Five hundred colored babies are born every twenty-four hours.—*N. Y. Sun*.

—A double chicken of the Siamese-twin pattern absorbs the attention of the people of Rochefort, Me. It has two heads and two pairs of legs, but these several members do not agree when the chicken takes its, or their, walks abroad—one head and pair of legs trying to shape their course to the right, and the balance as persistently working for a larboard course.—*Boston Transcript*.

—The other day, at Buffalo, N. Y., while a steam boiler was being severely tested, a terrific explosion occurred, and the boiler was hurled several hundred feet into the air. In coming down it struck the side of a brick building and tore a huge hole in it. What was very singular was that the boiler was not broken or shattered, but went up and came down whole, and nobody was injured by the explosion.—*N. Y. Ledger*.

—What is the origin of the name "Rocky Mountains?" I find it in the narrative of Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, sieur de la Verandrye, whose three sons, the 1st January, 1743, first sighted the magnificent range. They called it "Montagnes de Pierres Brillantes," from the sparkling of the summits in the sunshine. Then came the more prosaic name, "Montagnes Rocheuses" or "Rocky Mountains," and our still more prosaic, "Rockies."—*Montreal Gazette*.

—The Louisville Jockey club has completed arrangements whereby in the spring of 1889 there will be run at the course a race of a mile and quarter for a stake of \$50,000, called the West Kentucky stake, perhaps the richest ever run in America. The summary is as follows: Fifty thousand dollars for yearlings, two and three-year-olds on January 1, 1886; \$40,000 to the winner, \$4,000 to second, and \$2,500 to the third. The nominator of the winner to receive \$2,000; the nominator of the second to receive \$1,000, and nominator of the third horse to receive \$500, by subscription of fifty dollars each; 300 entries to fill or the race to be declared void at the option of the club.—*St. Louis Republican*.

## BILL NYE'S ADVICE.

Wholesome Admonitions to One Contemplating a Career of Crime.

HERRIN, Ark. Bill Nye, Asheville, N. C.: DEAR COLONEL—Can you tell me if there is a good opening where you are for a live, go-ahead train robber, fourteen hands high and of good pedigree? The industry has been greatly overdone here. When train robbing is let out to the lowest bidder the profits are bound to be small. I might not pay in your immediate vicinity, as I am told that you are at a health resort, and I have noticed that where good health runs riot there is very little of any thing else, but perhaps you know a locality where it would pay. I own eighty acres of the finest dornicks you ever saw, and I want you to tell me in bold-faced type what is best for me to do. If you say so, I'll stick to the dornicks until the cows return to their domicile. The chatted mortgage of fate, however, is hard to raise on a dagstone soil. Yours truly, M. R. WATTS.

Do not murmur or repine over your hard, macadamized lot, Mr. White, or seek to become suddenly wealthy by robbing trains. If you are determined to go into the train robbing industry, however, do not come here. This is no place for a train robber. You would not wish to rob an invalid on his way here for his health and just barely alive; and I am sure you would not care to rob him on his way back, when he is strong and well, but penniless.

That is not the worst drawback about train robbing here, however. It is the running time of the trains that interferes with your trade. A band of train robbers from Missouri came here five years ago, hoping to establish a branch of their great co-operative train wrecking and robbing emporium; but they were not successful.

It is said that they established themselves up near Round Knob, armed to the teeth and awaited the arrival of the train.

Time passed on.

At first they were not very hungry and did not think it advisable to devour any of their number, but at last starvation overpowered good resolutions and reason; so one after another of the younger and weaker of the band yielded to the frenzied and famine-stricken fragment of the once buoyant and self-reliant company.

At last one night, just as the moon clung the picturesque step-ladder of stars and looked down upon the wild and beautiful picture of glorified mountain and somber valley, as the last colored loiterer had returned from the distant revival, softly humming to himself, while a pair of Plymouth rocks sleepily peered from the pockets of his army overcoat into the glorious night, as the ever-regretful pine of the Old North State gave back to the night wind a hopeless whisper in answer to its light caress, the last of the lusty robbers yielded to long exposure, famine and the sharp, remorseless tooth of time. His latest fluttering breath went out upon the bosom of the mountain zephyr as a shrill whistle sounded from beyond the "trussel," and in less than two hours, almost before his body had become cold and rigid in death, the train with a muffled rumble and grumble and roar, with a mad shriek and a hot box, passed him in its resistless flight.

So you see, Mr. White, that this is no place to rob trains. It is too uncertain. This is a good place for health, but it is no place to rob trains. I can tell you where there are some good, robust chickens, or at least where they were an hour ago; but until the road here has more respect for its time-table, I would not advise a train-robber in whom I felt an interest to come here.

I know that at times your dornick farm will look bleak and desolate to you, and you will madly yearn for more soil, but it is better than the enervating toil of sitting night after night in a cold culvert, wearing a set of false whiskers, a size too large for you, and waiting for a train that may never come.

That is not all, friend White. Train robbing is not now what it was fifteen or twenty years ago. More people go "heeled" now than formerly. And those who do not go heeled have no money.

In riding through Nebraska some years ago, I was awakened one night while in an upper berth by a train robber who was a total stranger to me. He did not move in our set. His weapon wobbled so, owing to his excitement, that I caught hold of it to keep it steady, and also in such a position that if it happened to get itself discharged the contents would go through a medical student who occupied the lower berth. The train robber seemed to think I wanted to steal his nice new revolver, which he had no doubt secured by procuring two fresh subscribers for a child's paper, and so he resisted. We struggled there for half an hour, I presume, before I succeeded in robbing him.

A band of robbers, it is said, tried to rob a train bound north from Florida three years ago, and though they met with some resistance that was about all they did meet with.

One robber got a package of flea powder, a set of false teeth and a chest-nut bell.

Another secured a white vest, a buffalo overcoat and a small wet alligator. He did not know that he had secured the alligator until two hours afterward, when a look of pain came over his face, and one of his companions removed him from the small alligator which, it seems, had become very much attached to the robber by means of the brow of his pants.

(The man's pants I mean.)

Another got a diary for '73, an audophone and a truss.

Still another got a cigar case, a spectacle case and a case of small-pox. In my opinion a man is a fool who will sit up nights and lose his rest in order to rob trains when he can go to Congress and get in his little work on the surplus.—*Bill Nye, in Boston Globe*.

—An Englishman of fifty-five recently sued a lady of forty-six for breach of promise, and the jury awarded him £27.

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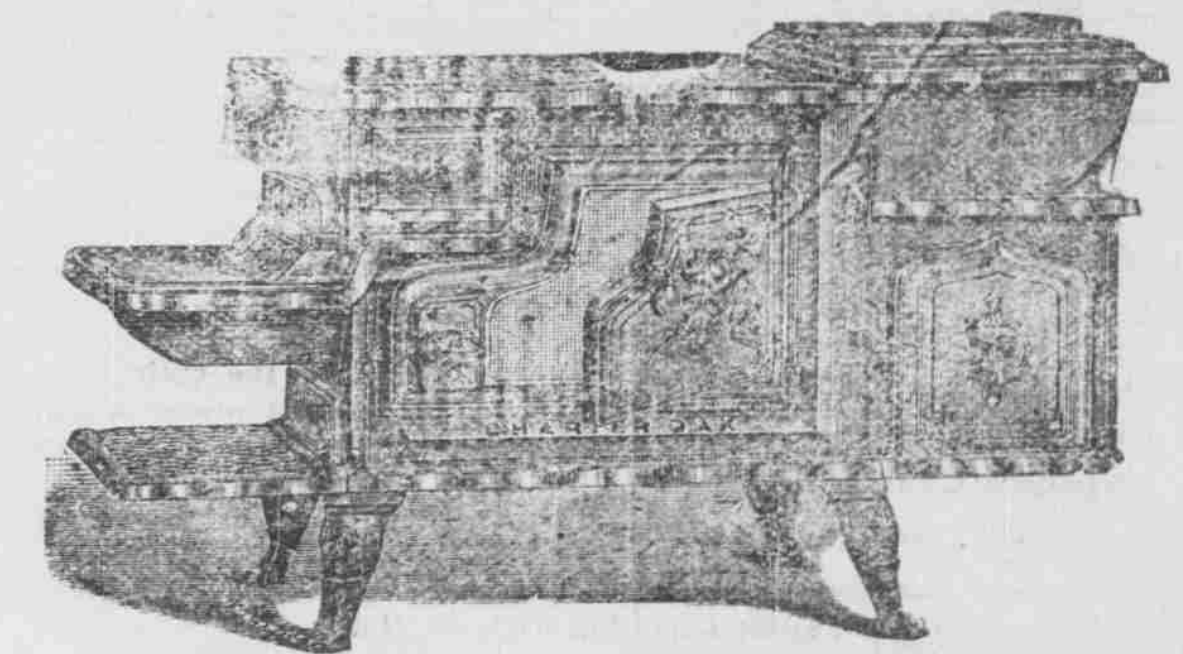
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